

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1356

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the use of Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to pursue independent study programs at certain educational institutions that are not institutions of higher learning, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 14, 2017

Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the use of Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to pursue independent study programs at certain educational institutions that are not institutions of higher learning, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Education
5 Improvement Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF POST-9/11 EDU-**
2 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO PURSUE INDE-**
3 **PENDENT STUDY PROGRAMS AT CERTAIN**
4 **EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ARE NOT**
5 **INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING.**

6 Paragraph (4) of section 3680A(a) of title 38, United
7 States Code, is amended to read as follows:

8 “(4) any independent study program except—

9 “(A) with respect to enrollments occurring
10 during the period beginning on the date of the
11 enactment of the Veterans Education Improve-
12 ment Act of 2017 and ending on September 30,
13 2018, an independent study program (including
14 open circuit television) that—

15 “(i) is accredited by a nationally rec-
16 ognized accrediting agency; and

17 “(ii) leads—

18 “(I) to a standard college degree;

19 “(II) to a certificate that reflects
20 educational attainment offered by an
21 institution of higher learning; or

22 “(III) to a certificate that re-
23 flects completion of a course of study
24 offered by—

25 “(aa) an area career and
26 technical education school (as de-

1 fined in subparagraphs (C) and
2 (D) of section 3(3) of the Carl D.
3 Perkins Career and Technical
4 Education Act of 2006 (20
5 U.S.C. 2302(3))) that provides
6 education at the postsecondary
7 level; or

8 “(bb) a postsecondary voca-
9 tional institution (as defined in
10 section 102(c) of the Higher
11 Education Act of 1965 (20
12 U.S.C. 1002(c))) that provides
13 education at the postsecondary
14 level; and

15 “(B) with respect to enrollments occurring
16 during any period other than the period de-
17 scribed in subparagraph (A), an accredited
18 independent study program (including open cir-
19 cuit television) leading—

20 “(i) to a standard college degree; or

21 “(ii) to a certificate that reflects edu-
22 cational attainment offered by an institu-
23 tion of higher learning.”.

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